

FEBRUARY 24, 1821.

Read twice, and committed to a committee of the whole House
on Monday next, the 26th instant.

A BILL

To abolish Imprisonment for Debt.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*
3 from and after the passing of this act, imprisonment for debt
4 on process issuing from the courts of the United States, be,
5 and the same is hereby, abolished; and, for the further ena-
6 bling creditors to recover their just debts, *Be it enacted, that*
7 the lands, tenements, goods, chattels, rights, and credits,
8 of every debtor, shall be subject to be seized and taken, on
9 execution, to satisfy any judgment, attachment, decree, or
10 award, of execution, rendered in any of the courts aforesaid.
11 And the Supreme Court of the United States is hereby au-
12 thorized and required to prescribe the necessary forms of all
13 such process and executions, to be used in the courts afore-
14 said, as may be required to enable creditors to recover their
15 just debts in every case whatever.

1 **SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,*** That this act shall not
 2 be construed to repeal any of the laws, now existing, which
 3 enable creditors to sue for, and recover, their debts, (except
 4 so far as relates to abolishing imprisonment for debt,) but
 5 shall be construed in aid of, and for the furtherance of, the
 6 prompt recovery of all just debts and demands whatever.